

**THE GENUS *Chrysaora* (SEMAEOSTOMEAE: PELAGIIDAE) IN
COASTAL WATERS OF THE ANDAMAN SEA AND THE GULF OF THAILAND**

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ABSTRACT: The scyphozoan jellyfish in the genus *Chrysaora* were collected from the coastal waters of the Andaman Sea from 2008 to 2018 and the Gulf of Thailand from 2014 to 2019. The total of 959 specimens were examined, of which 834 specimens were from the coastal waters of the Andaman Sea and 125 specimens from the Gulf of Thailand. The following characters were used to differentiate species of the genus *Chrysaora* from each other: shape and number of marginal lappets, number of marginal tentacles, number of tentacles per octant, the presence of quadrilinga, shape of radial septa, shape of gonads, and size of nematocysts. The morphological identification indicated that all of the specimens belong to a single species, *Chrysaora chinensis*, which was supported by the results from the molecular DNA sequence analysis. The 16S and 18S sequences were deposited in NCBI genebank as KT982700–KT982711 and KT982732–KT982743, respectively.

Key words: *Chrysaora*, Scyphozoa, Andaman Sea, Gulf of Thailand
